Rye City Planning Commission Minutes

July 20, 2004

1 2	PRESENT: Barbara Cummings, Chair	
3	Martha Monserrate, Vice-Chair	
4	G. Patrick McGunagle	
5 6	Peter Larr	
7	H. Gerry Seitz Nick Everett	
8	Hugh Greechan	
9	Tragit Crossitati	
10 11	ABSENT:	
12	ALSO PRESENT:	
13	Christian K. Miller, AICP, City Planner	
14	George Mottarella, P.E., City Engineer	
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16	I. HEAR	RINGS
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18	1. Kach	a Residence
19	Alakaandra	Mach (applicant's appiranmental concultant) provided an everyious of the
20 21	Aleksandra Moch (applicant's environmental consultant) provided an overview of the application noting it involved the construction of an addition, which would connect the	
22	existing residence with the existing detached garage. Ms. Moch stated that the	
23	proposed addition would result in a net increase of 138 square feet of impervious area	
24	within the 100-foot buffer.	
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26	Ms. Moch stated the existing wetland is located in a rear yard and consists of managed	
27	lawn. As mitigation for the 138 square feet of additional impervious area Ms. Moch	
28	stated that landscape plantings would be provided. Erosion control measures are also	
29	shown on the	e plan.
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31	On a motion made by Peter Larr, seconded by Nick Everett and carried by the following	
32	vote:	
33 34	AYES:	Barbara Cummings, Martha Monserrate, Peter Larr, Patrick McGunagle,
35	ATEO.	Gerry Seitz, Nick Everett, Hugh Greechan
36	NAYS:	None
37	RECUSED:	None
38	ABSENT:	None

the Planning Commission took the following action:

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ACTION: The Planning Commission closed the public hearing on wetland permit

application number WP157.

II. ITEMS PENDING ACTION

1. Kacha Residence

The Planning Commission reviewed the draft resolution of approval prepared by the City Planner. The Commission noted that the most recent revised plan addressed their comments.

On a motion made by Peter Larr, seconded by Gerry Seitz and carried by the following vote:

15 AYES: Barbara Cummings, Martha Monserrate, Peter Larr, Patrick McGunagle,

Gerry Seitz, Nick Everett, Hugh Greechan

17 NAYS: None 18 RECUSED: None 19 ABSENT: None

the Planning Commission took the following action:

ACTION: The Planning Commission adopted a resolution conditionally approving wetland permit application number WP157.

2. Beechwind Properties

 The Planning Commission Chair provided an overview of the application and its required approvals. The Chair noted that the action involves a two-lot subdivision. The proposed action would require that the Planning Commission adopt a SEQRA determination of significance, subdivision plat approval, wetland permit approval and an Advisory Coastal Consistency opinion to the Rye City Board of Appeals.

The Planning Commission reviewed the environmental conditions on the property. The Commission noted the importance of conducting a thorough environmental assessment and remediation of contaminants on the property. The Commission agreed that the environmental remediation should be consistent with Policies 7, 7A and 7B of the LWRP. The Commission noted that the applicant did not provide a specific plan to remediate the arsenic, cadmium, chromium, and lead, all of which appear to be on the applicant's property, and exceed established standards for residential use. The Commission noted that the remediation of the property would be consistent of revitalization of waterfront properties advocated by the LWRP.

The remediation of the property would also enhance the buffer consistent with the requirements of the City's Wetlands and Watercourses Law and the comments of the

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CC/AC. The Commission added that the City's Floodplain Management Law prohibits the placement of fill within the 100-year flood zone and that providing a soil cap as a remediation strategy may not be appropriate on the applicant's property. The Commission suggested that excavation and removal of contaminated materials would be the preferred mitigation scenario.

The Commission noted that the approximate depth of contamination was four feet but that further testing would be required to determine the actual extent of contaminated material. The Commission agreed that testing beyond the depth of four feet appeared unnecessary given existing soil conditions. The Commission also suggested that it might be appropriate to leave some material on the site if it falls below accepted residential standards. However, additional soil samples would be required before that decision could be made.

The Commission discussed the subdivision aspects of the proposed plan noting that residential use is not permitted in the B-7 District and that non-residential, water dependent uses are favored by the City Zoning Code and LWRP. The Planning Commission requested that the side yard setbacks on proposed Lot 2 be increased to provide greater separation from the adjacent Shongut property. The Commission noted that this would help reduce potential future land use conflicts between resident and businesses. The Commission suggested working within the existing side yard setbacks on the property including centering the proposed residence on the lot, flipping the setbacks so that the larger setback is provided adjacent to the existing Shongut property rather than the proposed residence on Lot 1 or other setback modifications. The Commission also requested that a vegetative buffer be provided along the Northern property line. The Planning Commission requested that the applicant double check its plans to make sure that all dimensions from setback lines are consistent and accurate.

Rex Gedney (applicant's architect) responded to the Planning Commission's request to modify the setbacks between buildings. Mr. Gedney stated the Planning Commission's request appeared reasonable but is inconsistent with the Board of Appeal's desire to provide greater separation between the proposed residences. The Planning Commission respected the applicant's concern and indicated that it would advise the Board of Appeals of its preferences and rationale.

The Planning Commission added that, in order to protect the adjacent water dependent use as encouraged by the City's LWRP, the applicant may be required to notify future purchasers of property of the proximity to the adjacent business operation.

The Planning Commission discussed the proposed drainage measures noting that additional water quality improvements are desired. The Commission suggested the use of a possible low profile subsurface infiltration unit as a possible solution. The Commission directed the applicant to work with the City Engineer on revising its engineering drawings.

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The Planning Commission reviewed the proposed wetland mitigation plan and requested the applicant revise its drawing to indicate the amount of existing and proposed impervious area in the pre-and post-development condition. The Commission requested that the applicant calculate the amount of mitigation area to be provided and to show the 100-foot wetland buffer line on the property.

The Commission discussed the application's consistency with the City's LWRP and discussed providing an advisory opinion to the Board of Appeals. The Commission reviewed its November 2002 opinion to the Board of Appeals as the basis for its discussion. That prior opinion related to development limited to the Brailsford property (670 Milton Road). The Commission noted that its November 2002 opinion stated that the proposed application at that time would only be consistent with the LWRP if it provides public access; preserves the historic structure of the Gedney store; and is of bulk, scale, size and height that is consistent with the existing character of the Mill Town historic districts.

Since that November 2002 the Commission noted the applicant has made significant modifications to its application. The current application no longer proposes a boat club in which the existing ten boat slips would be preserved. The current application would reduce the number of boat slips to two and limit it to those who reside at the proposed residences. The current application includes a permanent view corridor as result litigation with the application. Finally the Commission noted that the most recent submission includes new information regarding subsurface environmental conditions and the presence of contaminants.

The Planning Commission stated that while there were changes in the application and new information that its prior opinion from November 2002 remained valid and appropriate.

The Commission stated that the most recent proposal would actually result in the reduction of water dependent use on the property since it would reduce the number of existing boat slips from ten to two. This modification would not be desirable or encouraged by the LWRP.

The Commission noted that the revised application includes a view corridor. However, it noted that this corridor largely exists today and could therefore not be considered an enhancement to the waterfront or advancing an LWRP policy. In addition, the Commission noted the previous application included provisions for public access to docks that would be available to club members, which the current application does not include.

The Commission agreed that its opinion to the Board of Appeals also include its preference for an aggressive environmental cleanup of the property and the requirement for wetland mitigation plantings. The Commission noted the importance of

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maintaining consistency in its LWRP opinions because of the precedent in the event that other properties within the coastal zone seek similar approvals.

The Planning Commission agreed to have the Chair work with the City Planner to prepare a memorandum to the Board of Appeals on its behalf that conveyed the comments raised. The Commission further requested that, where appropriate, specific references to either the City Code or LWRP policies should be included in the memorandum.

The Commission agreed that it was not appropriate to set a public hearing for this application until the Planning Commission's concerns have been addressed including modifications to the building setback on Lot 2, submission of a complete remediation plan for subsoil contaminants, and modification to the wetlands plan to provide more information regarding impervious area and the location of the 100-foot buffer.

The Commission discussed with the applicant the possibility of amending its plans to provide public access, possibly within the view corridor area. The Planning Commission stated that providing such access would be a benefit to the application in consistency with the LWRP. Mr. Gedney responded that the prior plan proposed more development, which could better sustain the economic and marketing impact of providing public access on the property. Mr. Gedney also added that there were concerns on the previous development that additional off-street parking would be required to accommodate public use of the boat slips.

 Mr. Gedney stated that the previous use of the property was for light manufacturing which was not a water dependent use and therefore the proposed subdivision would not degrade water dependent aspects of the property as suggested by the Commission. Mr. Gedney stated that the prior Brailsford property owner rented the boat slips for public use merely to offset taxes he paid on the property. The Planning Commission responded that the prior use on the property is not relevant and that the Commission was obligated to consider the ways in which the proposed use was either consistent or inconsistent with the City's LWRP.

 The applicant's environmental consultant stated that she would provide additional testing as suggested in the Phase 2 site assessment and that the applicant is proposing to cap materials on site. The Commission responded that capping and the placement of fill would not be acceptable and that a more aggressive remediation plan is required. The Commission stated that the NYSDEC letter provided by the applicant does not constitute a remediation plan and that more information must be provided. The Commission specifically stated that there are two areas on the site where petroleum biproducts may exist and that those areas should have additional testing. The Commission also requested that the site plan show specifically where soil removal is to occur and in what quantities. The Planning Commission stated that it would not be acceptable to test for contaminates as construction is ongoing. The Commission stated its desire to have a remediation plan for its consideration.

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Albert Pirro (applicant) requested a meeting before the public hearing with Planning Commission member Monserrate to discuss in more detail her remediation requirements and any other plan specifics. The Planning Commission agreed to the applicants' request provided that the meeting was conducted with the City Planner.

Mr. Pirro requested a copy of the CC/AC letter and its comments. The Planning Commission unanimously agreed to release these comments.

Mr. Pirro responded to the Planning Commission's concerns regarding the subdivision and the proposed setback on Lot 2. Mr. Pirro stated that an additional setback was inappropriate and unfair given that existing zoning requires no side yard setback. Mr. Pirro stated that he would like to meet the Planning Commissions' request to provide an additional setback from the adjacent Shongut property, but that he does not have any opportunity to do so given the 35-foot view corridor restriction imposed on the property as settlement to a lawsuit from a neighbor on Milton Road. Mr. Pirro agreed to try to meet the Planning Commissions' request.

Mr. Pirro agreed that he would submit a revised drainage plan and requested a meeting with the City Planner and City Engineer to discuss specific details of that plan. The Planning Commission agreed to the applicant's request.

Mr. Pirro agreed to provide additional information requested by the Planning Commission for the wetland mitigation plan. Mr. Pirro agreed to provide the information requested by the Commission in advance of its next meeting in September.

3. Spelman Subdivision

The Planning Commission noted the revision to the subdivision to provide for a straight rather than a previously proposed angled lot line. The Commission also noted that this revision eliminated previous concerns regarding the compliance of the setbacks on proposed Lot 2.

The Planning Commission requested that parking spaces consistent with the requirements of the Rye City Zoning Code be shown on Lot 1. The City Zoning Code currently prohibits parking of vehicles within the front yard setback. The Commission also requested that the plan be revised to better indicate the removal of existing structures on the proposed plan. The Commission requested that the plan indicated that the newly created driveway for Lot 1 be revised so it is no closer than five feet to the proposed lot line. The Commission also requested that the removal of the portion of the existing porch be clearly shown on the plan to comply with the 12-foot side yard setback requirement. Matt Bavoso (applicant's attorney) noted that the plan would be revised per the Commission's request.

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The Commission also noted concern that the modification in the configuration of Lot 2 1 2 could result in a building being setback towards the rear of this lot, which would be 3 inconsistent with the current street pattern. The Commission discussed including a 4 condition of approval that required the setback of the proposed residence on Lot 2 to be 5 consistent with the setback of other residences located on Hunt Place.

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The Planning Commission discussed improvements to Hunt Place to upgrade that road from gravel to a paved roadway. The City Engineer requested that this roadway be upgraded consistent with previous decisions by the Planning Commission for similar subdivisions. It was noticed that the upgrading of this roadway would minimize future deterioration, which impacts the ability to provide municipal and emergency services.

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On a motion made by Peter Larr, seconded by Patrick McGunagle and carried by the following vote:

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AYES: Barbara Cummings, Martha Monserrate, Peter Larr, Patrick McGunagle,

Gerry Seitz, Nick Everett, Hugh Greechan

18 NAYS: None 19 RECUSED: None 20 ABSENT: None

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the Planning Commission took the following action:

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ACTION: The Planning Commission set a public hearing on final subdivision application number SUB286 for its next meeting on September 14, 2004.

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4. 55 Drake Smith extension of time

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The Planning Commission noted the applicant has requested a one-year extension of time to its previous wetland permit approval. The applicant has initiated but has not completed construction as required under the expiration provision of the Planning Commission's original wetland permit approval.

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On a motion made by Peter Larr, seconded by Gerry Seitz and carried by the following vote:

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37 AYES: Barbara Cummings, Martha Monserrate, Peter Larr, Patrick McGunagle, 38

Gerry Seitz, Nick Everett, Hugh Greechan

39 NAYS: None 40 RECUSED: None 41 ABSENT: None

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the Planning Commission took the following action:

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ACTION: The Planning Commission adopted a resolution granting a one-year extension of time to wetland permit application number WP131.

5. Rye Presbyterian Church

Planning Commission members Barbara Cummings and Patrick McGunagle noted their membership in the church and excused themselves from all discussions of this matter and left the meeting room.

The Planning Commission questioned the applicant as to the need for the proposed parking lot expansion. George Russell (church representative) responded that the additional parking is necessary to accommodate the parking demands associated with the daycare center and other activities at the church such as the thrift shop. Mr. Russell stated there are many times during the course of the week when the lot exceeds its available capacity, particularly during the pickup and drop-off time at the daycare center. Mr. Russell stated that they have conducted multiple internal reviews to determine the sufficient number of spaces.

The Planning Commission questioned the peak period of use. Mr. Russell stated that the peaks occur early in the morning after Rye High School has opened. Additional peak periods of use occur between 11 and 11:30 when the morning class is ending and the new afternoon class is starting. There is an additional peak period around 3:30 when the afternoon class is ending. Mr. Russell stated that the lack of available capacity is both a fire safety and traffic circulation concern since many vehicles block driveways and travel isles.

The Planning Commission noted concerns with the proposed changes in internal parking lot circulation. The Commission suggested revising the plan to provide a more logical travel flow that would avoid vehicle conflicts. Mr. Horsman stated the plan would be revised to address that concern.

The Commission noted concerns with the slope of the new driveway on Milton Road. Mr. Horsman agreed to provide additional information regarding grade changes in that area.

The Planning Commission suggested relocating or redistributing additional parking on the Boston Post Road side of the building. Mr. Horsman responded that some changes were being made in that area but the church is sensitive to the aesthetic impact of additional parking in that location. Mr. Horsman stated that they are trying to preserve the historic character of the church in that location, while also trying to accommodate the circulation needs for large vehicles.

The Commission questioned the number of parking spaces required by staff. Mr. Russell responded that there are approximately 27 staff people associated with the daycare/school and approximately 8 associated with the church on a daily basis.

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The Planning Commission requested that the applicant provide more information demonstrating the need for additional parking and a detailed description of the number of users by peak periods of use. The Planning Commission noted the importance of this information in establishing the need for the expanded parking area. The Planning Commission noted particular concern with the impact the additional parking will have on the character of Milton Road in this location. Mr. Horsman responded that a landscape screening plan has been provided to address that concern.

The City Engineer noted correspondence from the adjacent Resurrection Church claiming that prior parking lot expansion at the Presbyterian Church has resulted in reoccurring flooding in the church basement. The City Engineer noted that the City of Rye increased the size of a portion of a drain line that extends from Milton Road through the applicant's property down to Blind Brook. A portion of this pipe was increased in size from 24 to 30 inches to provide for additional capacity but flooding concerns continue. The City Engineer stated the applicant needs to address this concern before there is any increase in impervious area draining to this City storm system. Mr. Horsman stated the applicant would review the letter of Resurrection church and work with the City Engineer to provide for modifications in its drainage plan.

The Commission expressed concern with the relocation of the driveway on Milton Road and its proximity to the existing driveway serving the adjacent Resurrection church property. The Commission specifically inquired whether vehicle stacking for the new driveway could block access to the Resurrection church.

6. Commerce Bank

The Planning Commission noted that it had conducted a site walk and that it recommended that the applicant modify its building design to set back the building from the front and side property lines. This change would be necessary to ensure that doors do not swing into the adjacent sidewalk and to provide additional area for pedestrian circulation. Craig Tompkins (applicant's engineer) stated that the applicant would review the Planning Commission's request but it was concerned that such a modification would result in internal impacts to the ATM area.

The Planning Commission noted that sidewalk improvements are proposed on the adjacent Purchase Street and Smith Street including new sidewalks and curbs. The City Planner stated that Smith Street is in the City's Capital Improvement Plan to undergo a major reconstruction and that providing such improvements may require their removal in connection with this project. The City Engineer stated that money in lieu provided in these offsite improvements may be a more appropriate course of action.

The Planning Commission noted concern with the increased parking impact and refuse generated by the proposed building. The City Planner indicated that the proposed use complies with the City's parking requirements. Mr. Thompson stated that all refuse

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would be contained indoors and would be removed each evening by the cleaning staff.

There would be no external refuse storage.

The Planning Commission noted concern with the proposed aesthetic treatment of the building including the height and size of the proposed windows as well as the proposed signage. The Commission noted however that these concerns are within the perview of the Board of Architectural Review, not the Planning Commission.

7. Neiman Residence

The Planning Commission noted they conducted a site walk of the property and the application appears substantially complete. The Commission noted concern with the proposed storm water drainage system, which proposes a surface drainage area or "water garden." Allen Pilch (applicant's engineer) responded that the drainage design was designed to accommodate the water quality impacts of a 1.3 inch storm event associated with the approximately 600 square foot increase in impervious area on the property. Mr. Pilch stated that the design appears acceptable and it would provide a modest detention area prior to the storm water entering the off site wetland which is located on the adjacent property at 702 Forest Avenue.

On a motion made by Peter Larr, seconded by Gerry Seitz and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Barbara Cummings, Martha Monserrate, Peter Larr, Patrick McGunagle,

Gerry Seitz, Nick Everett, Hugh Greechan

25 Gerry 26 NAYS: None 27 RECUSED: None 28 ABSENT: None

the Planning Commission took the following action:

ACTION: The Planning Commission set a public hearing on wetland permit application number WP158 for its next meeting on September 14, 2004.

8. Retail Tenant Space Division (The Gap)

The Planning Commission questioned the applicant as to the adequacy of the proposed outdoor refuse area. Gerald Jean-Francois (applicant's representative) states the proposed refuse area is adequate and that no food establishment or other high refuse generation use is proposed for the new tenant spaces. Mr. Jean-Francois stated the refuse disposal is adequate.

The Planning Commission reviewed the applicant's drainage plan. Dan Holt (applicant's engineer) provided an overview of the drainage plan noting that drywells would be provided for minor infiltration opportunities and that overflow drainage would be

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- accommodated through a pump/force line that would stay on the applicant's property. 1
- 2 Mr. Holt indicated that the applicant prefers a gravity storm water drainage system.
- 3 However, it was not able to get the appropriate permissions from the adjacent property
- 4 owner to extend a drainage line across this adjacent property. The Planning
- 5 Commission stated its preference for a gravity system and offered to help facilitate a
- 6 conversation with the adjacent property owner. The Planning Commission suggested
- 7 working with the City to get an appropriate contact at the adjacent cooperative 8
 - apartment building such as a management agent or a co-op president.

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The City Engineer noted that additional soil tests would be required to determine whether the soils could support the infiltration for drywells. Mr. Holt responded that he was aware of significant amount of rock within the area and agreed with the City Engineer's opinion. The City Engineer also added that all storm water drainage would connect to an existing City storm water system and indicated that a terminal point of City maintenance be indicated on the plans.

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17 On a motion made by Gerry Seitz, seconded by Nick Everett and carried by the 18 following vote:

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- 20 AYES: Barbara Cummings, Martha Monserrate, Peter Larr, Patrick McGunagle,
- 21 Gerry Seitz, Nick Everett, Hugh Greechan

None

22 NAYS:

- 23 RECUSED: None
- 24 ABSENT: None

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the Planning Commission took the following action:

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- 28 ACTION: The Planning Commission set a public hearing for site plan application 29
 - number SP281 for its next meeting on September 14, 2004.

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9. De-mapping a Portion of Ann Lane

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The Planning Commission reviewed a draft memorandum prepared by the City Planner noting support for the proposed de-mapping of a portion of Ann Lane.

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36 On a motion made by Patrick McGunagle, seconded by Peter Larr and carried by the 37 following vote:

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- 39 AYES: Barbara Cummings, Martha Monserrate, Peter Larr, Patrick McGunagle,
- 40 Gerry Seitz, Nick Everett, Hugh Greechan
- 41 NAYS: None
- 42 RECUSED: None 43 ABSENT: None

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45 the Planning Commission took the following action:

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ACTION: The Planning Commission adopted Planning Commission Memorandum

number 1-2004 to the Rye City Council supporting the proposed de-

mapping of a portion of Ann Lane.

10. Lombardi & Sinis Subdivision

The Planning Commission noted it conducted a site inspection of the property and reviewed the applicant's most recent submission. The Commission noted concern as to the existing ingress and egress to the property. The Commission noted significant safety concerns with maintaining this existing access point on Boston Post Road. The Commission stated that site distance at this location is poor and that the proposed subdivision would need to erect this existing substandard condition. The Commission requested that the applicant provide more detailed site distance information including both stopping and intersection sight distance based on a prevailing speed limit of 40 miles an hour. The Commission stated that the most appropriate access solution for this property would likely be a single access drive serving both properties in a location that maximized optimal sight distance.

The Planning Commission also noted the proximity of the property to the John Jay Estate and Boston Post Road historic district. The Commission noted the development of the proposed additional lot on Boston Post Road would require a sensitive design and other mitigation measures to minimize impacts on this adjacent historic district.

Max Paringi (applicant's architect) responded the existing driveway would not be changed and therefore could be considered grandfathered but agreed to revise the plans to discontinue the use of this driveway. Mr. Paringi also responded that the proposed residence on Boston Post Road complies with the supplemental setback of 100 feet for the required front yard. The Planning Commission stated they understood the zoning compliance but stated that additional measures may be required such as a larger setback to preserve the streetscape in this important area. The Planning Commission noted the property's proximity to a national registered historic site makes the subdivision a Type I action under SEQRA.

The Planning Commission suggested modifying the configuration of the proposed residence for the new lot proposed on Boston Post Road. The City Planner stated such restrictions regarding the citing and orientation of a residence within a zoning building envelope may be difficult to enforce without other legal restrictions such as a covenant on the deed. The Planning Commission appreciated the City Planner's concerns but reiterated it desired a housing orientation where the proposed residence would face towards the existing residence on the property rather than towards Boston Post Road. The Planning Commission also stated the house orientation should be revised to protect the 40 inch caliper maple tree on Lot C. The Commission suggested this could be achieved by shifting the residence closer to the rear setback line and modifying the proposed rear setback line to provide further separation from Boston Post Road.

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The Planning Commission requested the tree preservation plan be revised to indicate the health and condition of each tree on the property. The Commission noted based on its site inspection that they did not feel necessary that the plan be revised to preserve the existing stand of trees for the new lot proposed on Morris Court.

The Planning Commission requested that the subdivision be revised so that all lots comply with the requirements of the City's Zoning Code including the setback for existing residences and the first floor elevation of all proposed residences to the pre-existing grade.

The Planning Commission requested that grading for all improvements shown on the plan should be provided and that more complete erosion control sediment and drainage detail be shown on the plan.

11. Minutes

The Planning Commission reviewed and approved the minutes of its June 22, 2004 meeting.